Name: _____ Date: _____

The Clock That Ran Backward on Tuesdays

Circle group

The old clock in Juniper's hall ticked forward every day but one. On Tuesdays, its hands spun backward. So did the hall.

Juniper learned this when she dropped a glass of juice one Tuesday. The glass broke on the floor. Then the clock whirred. The pieces slid together. The glass jumped back into her hand. It was full of juice again.

"Oh!" said Juniper. "A do-over!"

She tried it with other things. She un-spilled a bowl of cereal. She un-popped a balloon. She un-tied her shoelace and tied it again, this time neatly.

But the clock had a rule. It could only fix things in the hall. And it worked for only a few minutes. When she wished for a better grade on her spelling test, nothing changed.

So Juniper practiced her spelling words in the hall. By the next test, she did not need a do-over.

Questions

1. What happened to the clock's hands on Tuesdays?

_____

_____

2. What did Juniper drop in the hall?

_____

_____

3. What happened to the broken glass when the clock whirred?

_____

_____

4. What was one limit of the clock's magic?

_____

_____

5. Why did the clock not help with the spelling test?

_____

_____

6. What did Juniper do to get ready for the next test?

_____

_____

Words to know

backward: toward the back, or in the opposite direction
whirred: made a soft, fast humming sound
do-over: a second try at something
neatly: in a clean and careful way

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Clock That Ran Backward on Tuesdays

Triangle group

The old clock in Juniper's hallway ticked forward every day but one. On Tuesdays, its hands spun backward, and so did the hallway.

Juniper learned this when she dropped a glass of juice one Tuesday. The glass was in pieces on the floor. Then the clock whirred, and the pieces slid together. The glass jumped back into her hand, full of juice again.

"Oh!" said Juniper. "A do-over!"

She tried it with other things. She un-spilled a bowl of cereal. She un-popped a balloon. She un-tied her shoelace and tied it again, this time neatly.

But she found one rule. The clock could only fix things that happened in the hallway, and only for a few minutes. When she wished for a better grade on her spelling test, nothing changed.

So Juniper practiced her spelling words in the hallway instead. By the next test, she did not need a do-over.

Questions

1. What happened to the clock's hands on Tuesdays?

_____

_____

2. What did Juniper drop in the hallway?

_____

_____

3. What happened to the broken glass when the clock whirred?

_____

_____

4. What was one limit of the clock's magic?

_____

_____

5. Why did the clock not help with the spelling test?

_____

_____

6. What did Juniper do to get ready for the next test?

_____

_____

Words to know

backward: toward the back, or in the opposite direction
whirred: made a soft, fast humming sound
do-over: a second try at something
neatly: in a clean and careful way

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Clock That Ran Backward on Tuesdays

Square group

The ancient clock in Juniper's hallway ticked steadily forward every day of the week except one. On Tuesdays, its hands spun backward, and so, strangely enough, did everything in the hallway.

Juniper discovered this when she dropped a glass of juice one Tuesday morning. The glass shattered into pieces across the floor. Then the clock whirred, the pieces slid back together, and the glass leaped into her hand, brimming with juice once again.

"Oh!" said Juniper. "A do-over!"

She experimented with other things. She un-spilled a bowl of cereal and un-popped a balloon. She un-tied her shoelace and then tied it again, this time much more neatly.

However, she soon found out that the magic had limits. The clock could only repair things that happened in the hallway, and only for a few minutes. When she wished for a better grade on her spelling test, nothing changed at all.

So Juniper practiced her spelling words in the hallway instead. By the next test, she no longer needed a do-over.

Questions

1. What happened to the clock's hands on Tuesdays?

_____

_____

2. What did Juniper drop in the hallway on Tuesday morning?

_____

_____

3. What happened to the shattered glass when the clock whirred?

_____

_____

4. What limits did the clock's magic have?

_____

_____

5. Why could the clock not help with the spelling test?

_____

_____

6. What did Juniper do instead to prepare for the next test?

_____

_____

Words to know

backward: toward the back, or in the opposite direction
whirred: made a soft, fast humming sound
do-over: a second try at something
neatly: in a clean and careful way

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Clock That Ran Backward on Tuesdays

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Clock That Ran Backward on Tuesdays

Easier · 152 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. They spun backward.
2. A glass of juice.
3. The pieces slid together and it jumped back into her hand.
4. It only worked in the hall, and only for a few minutes.
5. The test was not in the hall, so the clock could not change it.
6. She practiced her spelling words in the hall.

Triangle: The Clock That Ran Backward on Tuesdays

This passage · 155 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. They spun backward.
2. A glass of juice.
3. The pieces slid together and the glass jumped back into her hand.
4. It only worked on things in the hallway, and only for a few minutes.
5. The test was not in the hallway, so the clock could not change it.
6. She practiced her spelling words in the hallway.

Square: The Clock That Ran Backward on Tuesdays

Harder · 174 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.5

1. They spun backward.
2. A glass of juice.
3. The pieces slid back together and the glass leaped into her hand, full of juice.
4. It only repaired things in the hallway, and only for a few minutes.
5. The test did not happen in the hallway, so the clock could not change it.
6. She practiced her spelling words in the hallway.